

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 18, 1892, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to her husband, Dr. Alexander Graham Bell
Florence March 18th My dear Alec:

As it will be all over before you get this I don't mind telling you that I am very much scared about Elsie today. She has a very bad sore throat indeed, but fortunately she has not only not a particle of fever, but is feeling very bright and well and has a good appetite. While these condition of affairs continues I do not feel very much alarmed, but it is not possible to hear of diptheria sore throat without being more or less frightened. Her tonsils are very much inflamed and there are large greenish white streaks on them and if there were fever I should be about ready to cable for you. As it is, as I say, Elsie feels very happy and is quite content to stay in bed and cut paper dolls. When she did go to sleep last night which was pretty late she slept well and soundly which as you may imagine is more than I could do. Miss Clark declares that Elsie has not get diptheria sore throat, but something else which she knows very well as she and her sisters have it quite often and comes from cold. We certainly were imprudent going to drive in an open carriage on a very damp afternoon and getting out and walking on the net pavement of the monastery with only thin low shoes and I have no doubt she took cold then. I always forget that she is not as strong constitutionally yet as she looks and is physically. All this makes me long to be safe with you once more and yet I am sure the children are better off here than they could be in Boston. Lovely weather seems to have come to stay and Florence and the country around is simply peerless in the weather we have been having the last three days. If it will only hold.

I feel as if I can't let Mr. McCurdy go. I don't want him here, but it is the greatest possible comfort to know him on this side the Atlantic when I can get him at a couple of days notice.

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I don't know that he could do anything still he is part of our home and I am sure of his willingness to do anything. As for the Misses Clark nobody could be kinder more helpful and capable.

2

Dr. Baldwin has just been here and says that it is a great triumph that Elsie has no fever whatever this morning. But here throat has to be brushed out every two hours just as Daisy's used to be. Fortunately she does not have the same tendency to vomit so it is not as distressing. I want Daisy to mail this now so no more at present except that you must always remember that I will tell you the truth in my cables and that if I have cabled before you get this that we are all well I mean it, and you need not be the least bit worried. I am only dreadfully disappointed that we must lose this lovely weather, which we have been waiting for for our drives. We had two perfectly beautiful ones and the country is simply exquisite.

With ever so much love Always your Mabel I take the credit of Elsie's freedom from fever to myself-dosing her so as to o.h.b.